

**MINUTES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY  
TENANT-LANDLORD COMMISSION**

February 21, 2008

Fairfax County Government Center  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
Conference Room #9  
Chair Liff, presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners: Geier-Smith, Kocsis, McRae,  
Rosier, Liff, Gomez, Aho,

Absentees:

Walde

Staff Attending:

Michael S. Liberman, Director  
Cable Communications and Consumer  
Protection  
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief  
Consumer Affairs  
Vee Johnson, Staff Liaison  
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:44p.m. by Chair Liff.

**Minutes**

The December 20, 2007, minutes were approved.

**Reports**

- Chair Liff has initiated contact with Sara Gerbhardt, a writer for the Washington Post and columnists Robert Griswold, Steven Kellman & James McKinley regarding attending a TLC meeting. She will notify the Commissioners when a response is received so consideration can be given to extending an invitation for them to attend an upcoming meeting.
- **Committee reports** - There were no Committee reports.

## **Staff reports**

- The Board of Supervisors approved the Tenant-Landlord Bylaws at the 1/28/08 meeting.
- Deputy Chief David McKernan and Deputy County Executive, Rob Stalzer of the Fairfax County Enhanced Code Enforcement Strike Team will be our guest at the March 20, 2008, meeting. They will provide an update regarding current investigations and enforcement actions throughout the county.
- Branch Chief Jones informed that the Tenant-Landlord brochure is under review by Director Liberman. Once finalized and approved, it will be available on the Web site and will be translated into Spanish.
- No questions or comments regarding the statistical reports.

## **Commission Matters**

- The attendance record for 2007 was reviewed and will be updated.
- Chair Liff informed of Commissioner Walde's resignation. Director Liberman will notify the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors of her resignation so the vacancy can be advertised. There are currently three vacancies, one landlord, one citizen and one tenant.
- Commissioners informed of meeting dates they will not be available. Staff will prepare a meeting calendar so this information can be recorded for planning purposes.
- All Commissioners seeking reappointment were appointed. Staff will obtain a current membership report for the Commission.

## **Old Business**

1. Tenant-Landlord program for Cable Channel 16
  - The Channel 16 Advisory Committee did not have a report.
  - Liaison Johnson notified the Commissioners that the Consumer Focus program on repairs and maintenance will be preempted by a Consumer Focus program on Credit Counseling in conjunction with National Consumer Protection Week from March 2-8. The TLC program will resume the week beginning March 9 on Channel 16.

## **New Business**

1. Nominations of Vice-Chairs and Secretary
  - In accordance with Article IV of the Bylaws, the following slate of candidates for Vice-Chairs and Secretary were nominated from the floor:

Tenant Vice-Chair- Commissioner Aho      Secretary- Commissioner Geier-Smith  
Landlord Vice-Chair - Commissioner Kocsis

The election will be conducted at the March meeting.

2. Speakers for upcoming meetings

- Liaison Johnson suggested an invitation be extended to Pat Petro, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Community Health and Safety Section, Environmental Health Division of the Fairfax County Health Department to discuss health trends affecting tenants and landlords. The Commissioners requested an invitation be extended for the April 17, 2008 meeting.

3. Legislative News

- HB 720 discussed. This bill contains technical amendments, expands the definition of "written notice" and adds a definition of "application fee," which caps the fee at \$50, an increase from \$32. This increase does not apply to dwelling units not subject to HUD regulations. Staff comments regarding this bill were discussed.
- Liaison Johnson suggested that Commissioners begin thinking of possible tenant-landlord initiatives for the upcoming 2009 legislative session.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:21p.m.